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a recommendation that this year the export should be restricted to one thousand tons as against the usual export of six thousand or seven thousand tons.''

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—'' May I know whether the Government have taken adequate steps to plant more tamarind trees, so that our State may be self-sufficient in tamarind in future?''

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' On many avenues, tamarind trees have been planted. In view of the high price of tamarind, I hope private parties also will plant tamarind trees.''

SRI D. KRISHNAMURTHY GOUNDER :—'' அரசாங்கத்திற்கு சொந்தமான சாலைகளில் இருக்கும் மரங்களையும், மற்றும் ஜில்லா போர்டுக்குச் சொந்தமான இடங்களில் இருக்கும் மரங்களையும் வெட்டாமல் இருப்பதற்கு அரசாங்கம் தடை செய்யுமா? அப்படி நடவாமல் தடுப்பதற்காக, வெட்டுபவர்களுக்கு தக்க தண்டனை விதிக்க யோசனை செய்வார்களா?''

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' It is very difficult to protect trees from being cut by persons in the vicinity. That is why we have appointed a committee to go into this matter and make recommendations. One of the measures which is being considered now is whether we cannot transfer the trees to the neighbouring landowners subject to the condition that they maintain the trees in proper condition.''

Appointment of Block Development Officers.

* 685 *Q.*—SRI M. S. MOGRAL: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Block Development Officers have been appointed in the State;

(*b*) the principles on which these appointments have been made; and

(*c*) how many of them belong to the backward communities?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' (*a*) 28.

'' (*b*) The prime consideration was to pick out the best men suitable for work under the National Extension Service and men who have aptitude for social work.

'' (*c*) 10.''

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—'' Are these Block Development Officers given the status of non-gazetted officers or gazetted officers?''

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' They are given the status of gazetted officers.''

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SRI M. S. MOGRAL :—" May I know whether there was any direct recruitment to these posts? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" No, Sir."

SRI S. R. ARUMUGAM :—" கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, இந்த பிளாக் டெவலப்மெண்ட் அதிகாரிகள் தகுதிக்குத் தக்கபடி பொறுக்கி எடுக்கப்படுகிறார்கள் என்று ஏற்கனவே மந்திரி அவர்கள் கூறினார்கள். இவர்களை ரெவின்யூ டிபார்ட்மெண்டிலிருந்து தேர்ந்தெடுத்தார்களா ? இவர்கள் இப்போதுள்ள தேசிய விஸ்தரிப்புத் திட்டத்தின்கீழ் பயிற்சி அளிக்கப்படுகிறார்களா ? பயிற்சி அளிப்பது வேலையில் சேர்த்துக்கொண்ட பின்னரா ? அல்லது அதற்கு முன்னரா ? இவ்வாறு தேர்ந்தெடுப்பதில் ஹரிஜனங்களைச் சேர்த்துக்கொண்டு பயிற்சி அளிக்கலாம் அல்லவா ? இன்னும் . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" எத்தனை சொல்வது ? I will call you again."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" All these Block Development Officers have not been recruited from the Revenue Department. They have been recruited from various Departments. About ten of them have been recruited from among the former Rural Development Officers. They have been given some training after they were taken to this work. Of course, no communal representation was observed in the matter of selection from among the services."

SRI S. R. ARUMUGAM :—" இந்த தேசிய விஸ்தரிப்பு திட்டத்தின்கீழ் தகுதிக்குத் தக்கபடி தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்படுவதாக மந்திரி அவர்கள் சொன்னார்கள். எந்த முறையில் தகுதி இருக்கவேண்டும் **Suitable Candidates** தகுதி என்ன என்பதை தெரிவிக்குமாறு மந்திரி அவர்களைக் கேட்கிறேன்."

8-10 a.m. THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" It is very difficult to answer that question during the question-hour. If the hon. Member would kindly come to me, I could explain the matter to him."

SRI M. S. MOGRAL :—" May I know whether the Government are aware that many persons who are not properly qualified for these posts are promoted and that because of their incapacity to tackle the rural problems, progress made in some areas is negligible? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I shall certainly have the matter looked into and if any officer is found unfit, there can be no difficulty in changing him."

SRI KUNHI MOHAMAD SHAFEE :—" May I know whether Muslims have been selected as Block Development Officers and if so, the number of Muslims selected? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I have already stated that the principle of communal representation was not observed, but still there is one Muslim among these officers who have been selected."

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SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture that all these Block Development Officers are given the status of a Gazetted Officer, may I know whether it is a fact that the Block Development Officer who is in charge of the Tirukkuzhankundram block is only a non-gazetted officer? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to point out to the hon. Member that this question relates to National Extension Service and his supplementary question relates to Community Projects."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Is he not a Community Project Officer? "

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Are the Government aware that some Block Development Officers in Malabar are utilising their appointment for the strengthening of political parties? If so, will the Government be pleased to issue orders that they should not side with any political party in the interests of the successful working of the scheme? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The hon. Member was at Payyanoor when I went there and I received a written representation to which I referred to when I spoke there. Rather the complaint was that these Block Development Officers were anti-Congress and pro-Communist and pro-Socialist. But I discount such criticisms and comments. I have found and I have no doubt the hon. Member is quite satisfied that the Block Development Officer there is doing his work very successfully."

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN :—" In view of the fact that there is a general complaint and widespread discontent among the Harijans that they are not properly represented in the appointments relating to either the Community Projects or the National Extension Service, may I know whether any Harijans have been appointed as Block Development Officers? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not know whether there is any discontent nor do I understand this kind of discontent among the Harijans in the matter of selection of a few officers who have the aptitude for doing work. But still if any Harijan suitable for this post is available, the Government would certainly consider the case whenever there is any vacancy."

Death of certain pavement dwellers during rainy days in Madras.

* 686 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to State—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that 30 pavement dwellers died on the platforms of Madras City during the heavy rains in the month of October 1953 ;